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Hurricane Response:

1 U.S. Coast Guard, EPA cleaning up a dozen Texas chemical spills after Harvey, Reuters, 9/12/2017

<https://af.reuters.com/article/africaTech/idAFL2N1LS1JQ>

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency are working with Texas state regulators to clean up oil and chemicals spilled from a dozen industrial facilities after flooding from Hurricane Harvey, authorities said. The spills came from oil refineries, fuel terminals and other businesses, but EPA spokeswoman Terri White said it was not possible to provide an estimate for the amounts spilled.

2 EPA opens inquiry into Arkema chemical plant explosion after Harvey flooding, Examiner, 9/11/2017

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-opens-inquiry-into-arkema-chemical-plant-explosion-after-harvey-flooding/article/2634057>

The Environmental Protection Agency has opened an inquiry into whether the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas followed federal safety rules to protect against hazards, following explosions at the facility that resulted from Hurricane Harvey flooding.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told the Washington Examiner on Monday he authorized a request for information to Arkema under Section 114 of the Clean Air Act about whether the company complied with a risk management plan filed with the federal government.

3 EPA/TCEQ: Updated status of systems affected by Harvey, 9/12/2017

http://www.gilmermirror.com/view/full_story/27477363/article-EPA-TCEQ--Updated-status-of-systems-affected-by-Harvey?instance=home_news_bullets

PA has 198 personnel supporting the response efforts for Hurricane Harvey and have established a Unified Command with other state and federal partners, and are in the field conducting work. Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas.

4 The Looming Superfund Nightmare, Atlantic, 9/11/2017

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2017/09/the-looming-superfund-nightmare/539316/>

The line between the acts of God and human acts has always been too blurry for our comfort. And the distinction between the two has perhaps never been less meaningful than it is now, with the Atlantic basin churning out an unprecedented slate of storms that have threatened areas across the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the southeastern coast of the United States.

5 The cruelest insult to Harvey and Irma's victims, Washington Post, 9/11/17

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-cruelest-insult-to-harvey-and-irmas-victims/2017/09/11/60e54caa-9715-11e7-82e4-f1076f6d6152_story.html?utm_term=.8dbddcf83fdd

When, if not now, is the time to talk about global warming and what to do about it? The answer from the Trump administration and the Republican Party, basically, is succinct in its willful ignorance: "How about never? Is never good for you?"

6 Column: Texas begins long march toward recovery from Hurricane Harvey, American

Statesman, 9/11/17

<http://www.statesman.com/news/local/column-texas-begins-long-march-toward-recovery-from-hurricane-harvey/amDpryLRJRmyQ9JZWVsy8J/>

As contaminated waters receded and mountains of debris from flooded homes and ruined belongings grew last week, a picture of post-hurricane Texas developed and the process of weighing impacts to lives, property and infrastructure began. Gov. Greg Abbott delivered a series of announcements and proclamations related to catastrophic flooding and wind damage brought by Hurricane Harvey to more than 50 Gulf Coast and inland counties in late August and early September.

7 Texas Sprays Mosquitoes in 1.4 M Harvey-Ravaged Acres to Thwart West Nile and Zika Viruses, Breitbart, 9/12/17

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/09/12/texas-sprays-mosquitoes-in-1-4-m-harvey-ravaged-acres-to-thwart-west-nile-and-zika-viruses/>

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reported they sprayed mosquitoes in more than 1.4 million acres ravaged by Hurricane Harvey. Officials plan to thwart the winged insects from breeding across multiple waterlogged counties, preventing a surge in their population and the diseases they carry, notably West Nile and Zika viruses.

8 Texas in dire need of relief, San Antonio Express, 9/12/2017

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/editorials/article/Texas-in-dire-need-of-relief-12189572.php>

The need for federal aid is urgent. Preliminary estimates for Hurricane Harvey's damages are in the ballpark of \$190 billion, USA Today reports; that's the cost of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy combined. And Hurricane Irma is sure to increase that need elsewhere. On Wednesday, the House of Representatives approved \$7.9 billion in disaster relief funds. The Senate voted Thursday 80-17 on a package of about \$15 billion in disaster aid, dispersed evenly between Hurricane Harvey victims and Community Block Grants for all 2017 disasters, including Irma. The House concurred and the president signed the bill on Friday.

Around the Region:

9 Report: San Antonio Behind on 'Green' Stormwater Infrastructure, Rivard Report, 9/12/2017

<https://therivardreport.com/report-san-antonio-behind-on-green-stormwater-infrastructure/>

Texas' five largest cities still have work to do when it comes to deploying citywide stormwater management, according to a scorecard released Monday by Environment Texas. Researchers with the environmental advocacy group graded cities according to 10-step regulation and education efforts surrounding green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), also known as low-impact development (LID). Austin is, unsurprisingly, ahead of other cities with 9 points (90%) compared to San Antonio's 6.5 (65%), followed by Fort Worth (60%), Houston (50%), and Dallas (40%).

10 Houston's Floodwaters Are Tainted With Toxins, Testing Shows, NY Times, 9/11/17

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/11/health/houston-flood-contamination.html>

Floodwaters in two Houston neighborhoods have been contaminated with bacteria and toxins that can make people sick, testing organized by The New York Times has found. Residents will need to take precautions to return safely to their homes, public health experts said. It is not clear how far the toxic waters have spread. But Fire Chief Samuel Peña of Houston said over the weekend that there had been breaches at numerous waste treatment plants. The Environmental Protection Agency said on Monday that 40 of 1,219 such plants in the area

were not working.

11 MONSANTO LEVELS CRITICISM AT ARKANSAS WEED SCIENTISTS, Ag.com, 9/11/17

<http://www.agriculture.com/crops/soybeans/monsanto-levels-criticism-at-arkansas-weed-scientists>

Monsanto has taken off the gloves in its effort to advance its dicamba-tolerant technology. Last week, the St. Louis-headquartered firm filed a petition with the Arkansas State Plant Board to halt what it calls an “unwarranted and misinformed ban” on dicamba in Arkansas.

12 TCEQ to host public meeting to discuss pending dairy farm near Panhandle, KFDA, 9/11/17

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/36338791/tceq-to-host-public-meeting-to-discuss-pending-dairy-farm-near-panhandle>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will host a public meeting this Tuesday to discuss opening a new dairy facility near Panhandle. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Panhandle High School Auditorium located at 106 West 11th.

13 TCEQ issues Ozone Action Day for Corpus Christi area, KRISTV, 9/11/17

<http://www.kristv.com/story/36340054/tceq-issues-ozone-action-day-for-corpus-christi-area>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued an Ozone Action Day for the Corpus Christi area for tomorrow Tuesday, September 12, 2017. A reverse alert message was sent out around 4:30 pm Monday afternoon.

14 Water boil lifted in Aransas Pass, Caller Times, 9/11/17

<http://www.caller.com/story/weather/hurricanes/2017/09/11/water-boil-lifted-aransas-pass/654845001/>

The water boil order in Aransas Pass has been rescinded. The Aransas Pass Police Department posted Monday on its Facebook page the city's water no longer requires boiling prior to use.

15 Petrochemical giants dumped deadly carcinogens during Hurricane Harvey, WSWS, 9/12/17

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2017/09/12/chem-s12.html>

As Hurricane and Tropical Storm Harvey bore down on and flooded the northern Gulf Coast last month with an estimated 20 trillion gallons of rain, some 60 plants belonging to the world’s petrochemical giants on the Texas coast began shutdown procedures. During this time they vented and dumped almost a million pounds of some of the most deadly chemical compounds on earth.